



Water Supply Planning

9 VAC 25-780

**Roanoke River Basin
Commission
January 10, 2005**

Statutory Mandate

- SB1221, 2003 (§ 62.1-44.38:1)
 - Requires each locality to plan for meeting water supply needs – either regionally or separately
 - Directs State Water Control Board to develop criteria for local and regional water supply planning
 - Directs DEQ to prepare a preliminary state water resources plan
- Statutory goal is to ensure adequate and safe drinking water is available, promote and protect all other beneficial uses, and encourage development of alternative water sources such as desalinization

Status

- Preliminary Water Resource Plan submitted to the State Water Commission in September 2003
- Draft regulation presented to the State Water Commission in November 2004
- Draft regulation approved for public comment by State Water Control Board on December 2, 2004
 - Public comment period Spring 2005
 - Regulation will be submitted to the State Water Control Board for final approval in June 2005

Summary of Draft Regulation

- The regulation establishes a planning process and criteria that local governments will use in the development of the local and regional plans.
 - All counties, cities and towns will submit a plan to the board, individually or as part of a region.
 - Plans are due within 3 to 6 years according to a staggered schedule based on population.
 - Regional groups have 6 years to submit a plan.
 - Localities will review their plans every five years to evaluate adequacy and need for changes.

Elements of Local / Regional Plans

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- A description of existing water sources, water uses, and water resource conditions
- Projected water demand
- A description of water management actions, including drought response plans
- Potential alternatives to address any projected deficits in supplies
- A map identifying important physical elements of the plan
- A resolution approving the plan from each local government
- A record of public comments and the response to those comments

DEQ's Role in Water Supply Planning

- DEQ will review all local and regional plans to determine compliance with this regulation and consistency with the State Water Resources Plan.
- To assist in the development of local programs, DEQ will:
 - Provide guidance and technical assistance
 - Provide financial assistance for development of plans
 - Facilitate acquisition of information on existing resource conditions and use
 - Facilitate acquisition of water management options and information
 - Provide information regarding known conflicts relating to the development of alternatives

Stakeholder Response

- Approach supported by local governments, water purveyors, conservation interests, and industry at State Water Commission on 11/22
- Additional Issues that remain include:
 - Improved means for evaluating the cumulative impacts of withdrawals on all beneficial uses
 - Opportunities to improve permitting process
 - State advocacy of water supply projects
- Amendments to the VWP permitting regulation and other changes are needed to address these issues

Stakeholder Response

- TAC identified three areas where the state needs to provide additional support
 - Technical and financial assistance to localities to complete water supply planning analysis.
 - Additional data and information on the status and availability of ground water.
 - Additional information and analysis on the availability of surface waters and in-stream flow requirements.
- \$701,000 included in the budget amendments proposed by Governor Warner to address these needs

Benefits of Water Supply Planning Efforts

- Greater understanding of water resources and water demands
- Increased information for use in evaluating water supply projects
- Increased public involvement in resource management decisions
- Earlier opportunity to identify and address conflicts among users
- Improved responsiveness and preparation for drought

Benefits of Water Supply Planning Efforts cont'd.

- Improved information on resource issues that impact local plans and projects
- Promotes focus on most viable water supply alternatives
- Improved coordination and preparation for permitting and regulatory processes
- Economic development tool (i.e., documented plans for meeting water supply needs)

QUESTIONS